

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims above to incorporate the limitations of claims 27 and 48 into the independent claims and have cancelled certain of the claims as unnecessary after the amendments to the independent claims. Applicants have amended yet other claims to improve and clarify their language without further narrowing the scope of the claims and without regard to the prior art. With the entry of these amendments, claims 24-26, 30-32, 34-,36, 38-41, 43-47, 51-53, 55-57, 59-62, 64-68, 70-75, 77-83, 85-92 and 94-99 will be pending in this application. These amendments moot all of the prior art rejections, as the Examiner indicated that the amendments made herein would place the aforementioned claims in condition for allowance. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claims 24-26, 30-32, 34-,36, 38-41, 43-47, 51-53, 55-57, 59-62, 64-68, 70-75, 77-83, 85-92 and 94-99 should be allowed.

Early action allowing the claims in this application is solicited.

On December 8, 2003, applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement for this application. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the cited references in conjunction with this amendment.

In the event that the Patent and Trademark Office determines that a further extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 530172000100.

Respectfully submitted,

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